

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 14362 191145Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 INSE-00
NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01
ICA-11 SP-02 /073 W
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P R 191119Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4762
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652: NA
TAGS: SREF
SUBJECT: HMONG RESETTLEMENT IN BOLIVIA

REF: BANGKOK 6477 (NOTAL), BANGKOK 13876 (NOTAL)
BANGKOK 14281 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: PLANS APPEAR TO BE PROCEEDING FOR DEPARTURE OF THE
FIRST INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO A PILOT RESETTLEMENT PROJECT
IN BOLIVIA. END SUMMARY

2. IN A CONVERSATION WITH HMONG (MEO) REFUGEE AND LOEI CAMP LEADER
VANG YEE, RECENTLY RETURNED FROM ACCOMPANYING FOOD FOR
THE HUNGRY REPRESENTATIVES ON A SURVEY TRIP TO BOLIVIA, AN
EMBASSY OFFICER LEARNED THAT PLANS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE DEPARTURE
OF 10 HMONG ABOUT JUNE 1. THESE INDIVIDUALS WILL BE SINGLE MEN AND
INCLUDE CARPENTERS, DRIVERS, MEDICS, AND LABORERS. THEY
WILL ASSIST IN SITE PREPARATION FOR THE LATER ARRIVAL ABOUT JULY 1
OF THE FIRST 50 FAMILIES OF HMONG REFUGEES. AN ADDITIONAL 50 FAMILIES
WILL FOLLOW TOWARD THE END OF THE YEAR (REF A).

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3. VANG YEE APPEARS REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH THE CHOICE OF SITE
WHICH APPARENTLY CONSISTS OF 20,000 HECTARES IN THE LOWLANDS
BELOW 4000 FEET. SOME ADDITIONAL ROAD CONSTRUCTION IS SAID
TO BE REQUIRED AT THE SITE WHICH LIES BETWEEN TWO RIVER
JUNCTIONS. VANG YEE OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH THE SOIL LOOKS SOMEWHAT
LESS FERTILE THAN IN THAILAND, THE LAND APPEARS TO BE

CAPABLE OF SUSTAINING SOME AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. IT IS NOT CLEAR WHAT THE CHIEF PRODUCTS WILL BE, ALTHOUGH RICE, MAIZE AND COCOA ARE POSSIBILITIES.

4. ACCORDING TO VANG YEE, THE RTG DELEGATION WHICH WILL BE VISITING BOLIVIA (AND THEN WASHINGTON) IN THE NEAR FUTURE (REF B) WILL CONCENTRATE ON IRONING OUT THE FINAL DETAILS, INCLUDING AN AGREEMENT ON POLITICAL AND PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR THE REFUGEES.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS HEARD INDEPENDENTLY FROM MINISTRY OF INTERIOR SOURCES THAT IF THE RTG DELEGATION WHICH IS SHORTLY SCHEDULED TO VISIT BOLIVIA IS SATISFIED WITH ITS FINDINGS THERE, IT WILL REQUEST USG FUNDS TO UNDERWRITE TRANSPORTATION COSTS OF REFUGEES FROM THAILAND TO BOLIVIA. PERHAPS ANOTHER SOURCE OF SUCH FUNDS IF THE RESETTLEMENT PROJECT PROVES OUT COULD BE RECENTLY ANNOUNCED \$10 MILLION JAPANESE DONATION TO THE UNHCR (REF C).
WHITEHOUSE

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